



Attorney's Docket No. 998-904IP

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Gebreselassie et al.

Serial No.: 10/644,339

Confirmation No. 5860

Filed: August 20, 2003

For: VEHICLE COCKPIT ASSEMBLIES HAVING INTEGRATED DASH
INSULATORS, INSTRUMENT PANELS AND FLOOR COVERINGS, AND
METHODS OF INSTALLING SAME WITHIN VEHICLES

December 2, 2003

Office of Patent Legal Administration
Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION TO ACCORD THE PROPER FILING DATE

Sir:

As set forth in 37 CFR § 1.10(c) and MPEP § 506.02, Applicant hereby petitions to grant the proper filing date of August 20, 2003 rather than August 21, 2003 for the above-identified patent application as this was the date the application was deposited as "Express Mail" in the U.S. Postal Service. The following is enclosed as evidence of August 20, 2003 being the correct filing date for the application which was properly filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10:

1. A true and accurate copy of the Cover Sheet for the Application showing the Certificate of Express Mail on Page 2.
2. A true and accurate copy of the Express Mail Receipt marked by the United States Postal Service ("USPS") as a "date-in" or deposit date with the USPS on August 20, 2003.
3. A true and accurate copy of the Track & Confirm from the United States Postal Service website (www.usps.com) indicating receipt of the Express Mail package at the Post Office on August 20, 2003 and delivery of the package at the USPTO on August 21, 2003; and
4. A true and accurate copy of our return post card sent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, showing that Applicant was improperly given the filing date of August 21, 2003 instead of the Express Mail date of August 20, 2003.

In re: Gebreselassie et al.
Serial No.: 10/644,339
Filed: August 20, 2003
Page 2

This petition is being filed promptly after Applicant became aware of the improperly accorded filing date. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the granting of August 20, 2003 as the filing date pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.10.

On the basis that Applicant properly followed the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.10 and the USPTO failed to accord the proper filing date under MPEP § 505 and thus the need to file this petition is due to error on the part of the USPTO, it is applicant's belief that no fee is due with this petition. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,

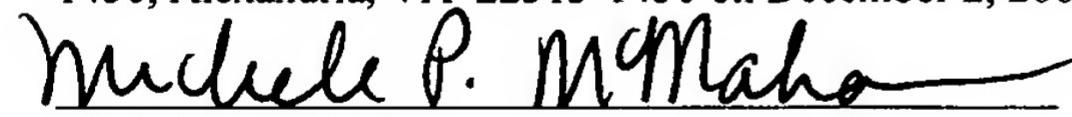


Needham James Boddie, II
Attorney For Applicant
Registration No. 40,519

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Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Office of Patent Legal Administration, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 2, 2003.


Michele P. McMahan



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY DOCKET NO.: 998-904IP
DATE: August 20, 2003

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER
AND FEE TRANSMITTAL FORM (37 CFR § 1.53(b))**

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 CFR § 1.53(b) is:

- a patent application
 a Continuation a Divisional a Continuation-in-Part (CIP) Application of prior application no.: 10/256,695; filed September 27, 2002, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.
 and claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. filed

Inventor(s) or Application Identifier:: **Girma Gebreselassie**, Southfield, Michigan; **Matt Starling**, Ypsilanti, Michigan; **Anthony J. Messina**, Royal Oak, Michigan; and **Surendra Khambete**, West Bloomfield, Michigan

Entitled: **VEHICLE COCKPIT ASSEMBLIES HAVING INTEGRATED DASH INSULATORS, INSTRUMENT PANELS AND FLOOR COVERINGS, AND METHODS OF INSTALLING SAME WITHIN VEHICLES**

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
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Enclosed are:

1. Application Transmittal Letter and Fee Transmittal Form (*A duplicate is enclosed for fee processing*)
2. 30 pages of Specification (including 31 claims)
3. 7 sheets of Formal Drawings (35 USC 113)
4. Oath or Declaration
 - a. newly executed (*original or copy*)
 - b. copy from prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (*for continuation/divisional*) [Note Box 6 Below]
 - c. DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) (*Signed statement deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application*)
5. Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76
6. Incorporation By Reference (*useable if box 4b is checked*)

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated

- by reference therein.
7. Microfiche Computer Program (*Appendix*)
 8. Assignment papers (*cover sheet(s) and document(s)*)
 9. Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR § 1.27.
 10. Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 with 11 references cited (no copies provided)
 11. Preliminary Amendment (*Please enter all claim amendments prior to calculating the filing fee.*)
 12. English Translation Document
 13. Certified Copy of Application No. ; Filed
 14. Sequence Listing/ Sequence Listing Diskette
 - a. computer readable copy
 - b. paper copy
 - c. statement in support
 15. An Associate Power of Attorney
 16. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (*Should be specifically itemized*)
 17. Other: Application Filed Under 37 CFR 1.41(c)

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	Column 1 No. Filed	Column 2 No. Extra	Small Entity Rate	Large Entity Rate
BASIC FEE			\$375.00	\$ 750.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	31 - 20 =	11	x 09 = \$	x 18 = \$198.00
INDEP CLAIMS	3 - 3 =	0	x 42 = \$	x 84 = \$
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE Dependent Claims Presented			+ 140 = \$	+ 280 = \$
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- Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-0220 in the amount of \$948.00.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge the following fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0220:
 - a. Additional filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.
 - b. Additional patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

Needham James Boddie, II
Registration No. 40,519

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

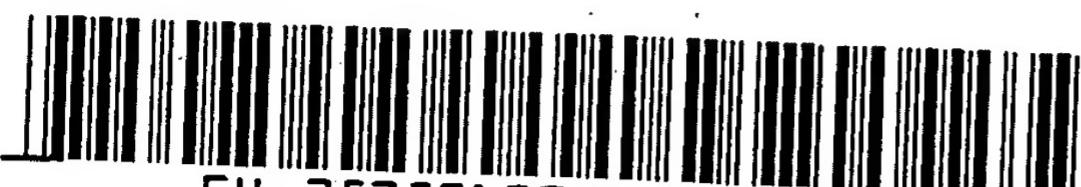
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Michele P. McMahan

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M.S. Patent Application
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NJB/mfm Date: 8/20/03
Doc. No. 998-904TP
Serial No. TBP
Inventor Gebreselassie et al.

08-27-03 A09

Sir: Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying items listed below by placing your receiving stamp hereon and return mailing:

- Application Transmittal and:
 Specification pages 30
 No. of Claims 31
 Declaration & POA
 Assignment and Fee
 Small Entity Statement
 Formal Drawings/ 7 sheets
 Associate Power of Attorney
 Exp. Mail 1st Class Mail
 Other: _____

- Check \$ 11 refs. no copies
 IDS & PTO-1449 & 11 refs.
 Amendment & Amend. Transmittal
 Preliminary Amendment
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Respectfully submitted,
MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC, P.A.
Attorneys for Applicant





Track & Confirm

Shipment Details

You entered EV35 3596 075U S

Your item was delivered at 9:47 am on August 21, 2003 in ARLINGTON, VA 22202 to PATENT OFFICE. The item was signed for by J STECKEL.

Here is what happened earlier:

- ARRIVAL AT UNIT, August 21, 2003, 8:21 am, DULLES, VA 20102
- ENROUTE, August 20, 2003, 7:27 pm, RALEIGH, NC 27623
- ACCEPTANCE, August 20, 2003, 5:32 pm, RALEIGH, NC 27612

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